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Final Bill Includes Bipartisan Carnahan Amendment To Eliminate Unfair Advantages for Foreign-based Manufacturers

(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) applauded the U.S. House approval today of legislation that authorizes record investments in our nation's military to further strengthen our national security, provide our brave men and women in uniform with the tools to do their jobs, and take care of our service members and their families.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2011 passed today by a vote of 229-186. The legislation included a key, bipartisan amendment sponsored by Carnahan that ensures a level playing field for American defense contractors, like St. Louis-based Boeing, by targeting illegal subsidies that allow foreign bidders to underbid U.S. companies.

"Every day, thousands of St. Louis Boeing workers help produce the most state-of-the-art military equipment available today," Congressman Carnahan said. **"It is unacceptable that their jobs could be jeopardized because a foreign company that has received over \$5 billion in illegal subsidies is granted a defense contract. American workers and American companies deserve a level playing field."**

Carnahan said he was disappointed that a provision calling for an extra engine for the F-35 Future Joint Fighter aircraft was kept intact. Carnahan supports eliminating the extra engine to save taxpayers \$485 million.

"Today's bill provides the resources we need to sustain two wars today and be prepared for the threats of tomorrow-whatever and wherever they may be," Russ Carnahan said. "Competition doesn't mean American taxpayers should foot the bill for two nearly-identical engines for the same aircraft."

Coming just days after the Pentagon's announcement for a multi-year procurement for 124 additional F-18 Super Hornets produced in St. Louis and employing 3,000 area workers today's bill includes funds for 30 F-18 strike fighters and 12 EA-18 expeditionary electronic warfare aircraft. Savings garnered from the multi-year procurement contract for 124 aircraft, will now go toward additional proven F-18s to fill the existing fighter gap that exists until the Future Joint Fighter is ready for service.

The bill also provides the resources to our commanders in the field to successfully implement a new counter insurgency strategy in Afghanistan and continue to fix the dramatic shortfalls of the previous Administration. It supports President's Obama's winning strategy on both sides of the border, helping to strengthen the relationship with Pakistan by expanding Coalition Support Funds.

While the threat of nuclear war with a superpower is diminishing, the threat of nuclear terrorism and the risk that nuclear materials might spread to countries hostile to the U.S. are increasing.

"We cannot adequately protect our nation until we bring our nuclear policy out of the Cold War era and into the 21st century, and this bill fully supports efforts to secure vulnerable nuclear material and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to those who seek to do us harm," Carnahan said.

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